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REMARKS

In the Office Action sent August 11, 2006, the Examiner objected to the drawings, rejected claims 1-16 and 18-22, and objected to claim 17. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of pending claims 1-22 in light of the following comments.

I. Drawings

The Examiner objected to Figure 1, noting that this figure should be labeled "Prior Art." A revised drawing sheet with this correction is filed herewith.

II. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0222857 (the "Abileah reference") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,483,498 (the "Colgan reference"). Claims 7-13 stand rejected as being unpatentable over the Abileah reference in view of the Colgan reference and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,859,392 (the "Petty reference"). Claims 18-22 stand rejected as being unpatentable over the Colgan reference in view of the Petty reference. All of these rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner notes, correctly, that the Abileah reference does not teach maintaining the first and second reference voltages substantially constant, but argues that the Colgan reference cures this defect because "contact between the layers causes current flow to the electrodes, which means there was no current flowing prior to contact, which means it is inherent that there was a constant voltage between the electrodes at all times." Applicants do not fully understand Examiner's argument, but note that the fact that no current is flowing initially (during quiescent operation of Colgan) does not mean that the reference voltages are maintained at a substantially constant level during the touch condition, as recited in claim 1.

The Examiner quotes claim 1 as reciting a "voltage substantially constant during operation of the resistive touch screen." But this is how claim 1 read *prior* to entry of the Preliminary Amendment dated November 29, 2005. After entry of the Preliminary Amendment, this final element recites "during said touch condition."

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In any event, nothing in the Abileah or Colgan reference discloses a system responsive to a touch screen that includes a first reference voltage provided to a first conductive layer, and a second reference voltage provided to a second conductive layer, wherein "said detection circuit maintains said first and second reference voltages substantially constant during said touch condition." The section of the Colgan reference cited by the Examiner (column 7, lines 51-66) seems to simply describe the way current flows between the electrodes. Even if the voltage between the various electrodes is substantially constant during quiescent operation, it does not appear that this is the case during a touch condition.

The various rejected dependent claims are also non-obvious for at least the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejections be withdrawn.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 17 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants acknowledge that claim 17 is thus allowable, but maintain that, because the base claim is allowable, this claim is also allowable as it currently stands.

IV. Conclusion

In view of foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Examiner's rejections have been overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is therefore earnestly requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment on this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Sep. 29. 2006 12:16PM

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Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 9/27, 2006

By: 

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